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10/674,717

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner has objected to claim 8. Claim 8 has been amended to overcome this objection.

The Examiner has rejected claims 7 and 8. Claim 7 has been amended to overcome this rejection.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, and 7-12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,412,120 to Leonard.

Claim 1 has been amended to include elements of allowable claim 2. Accordingly claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is now allowable. In addition claims 3-6 and 10-12 depend from claim 1 so therefore it is submitted that these claims are also allowable.

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New claim 13 is also enclosed. This claim includes elements of former claim 1 and elements of claim 3.

It is respectfully submitted that this new claim 13 is patentable over the above cited patent. In particular, this new claim 13 includes the elements of claim 1 and claim 3. The above cited art does not disclose that the distributor channels split at an acute angle in their path progression. In contrast, the above cited patent to Leonard discloses channels that make a sharp bend. This design difference is important because with the design of the present invention in claim 13, the liquid or emulsion can flow uniformly. Thus, the particular form of distributor channels without a bent branch as disclosed in Leonard, guarantees that the liquid is distributed quickly and advantageously on the distributor plate.

New claim 14 is also enclosed. It is respectfully submitted that this new claim 14 is patentable over the above cited reference.

New claim 14 includes the elements of original claim 1 and claim 10. In particular, new claim 14 is patentable over the

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above reference to Leonard because claim 14 discloses a depression with a siphon accommodated in its base.

Leonard does not disclose this feature. With regard to FIG. 24 and the description of column 13 line 59, this reference does not constitute a siphon and it is respectfully submitted that there is no depression in the distributor plate in the region of the capillary grooves.

In contrast, Leonard only shows a slanted portion of the distributor plate which possesses a border 166 that is drawn up at the end. The liquid will flow over the edge of the border if sufficient liquid flows down. This remaining liquid behind the edge of the border does not have any opportunity to run down. Instead, a little liquid will drip off of the edge and leave an unsightly trace in the toilet bowl. With the design of claim 14, the liquid is prevented from flowing or dripping over the edge of the border after the flushing process. This is to avoid the ugly traces in the toilet bowl. After this flushing process, the remaining liquid is supposed to collect in the depression and this siphon ensures that only a small amount of liquid remains in the depression, wherein the remaining amount flows off via the

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siphon. Thus, for this reason the overflow edge of the siphon is located lower than the capillary grooves. It is respectfully submitted that none of these characteristics are found in Leonard.

Regarding claims 7, and 8, the clip as presented in claim 7 is entirely different than the clip presented in the reference to Leonard. Claim 7 has been amended to state that the clip includes "latching channels" wherein these latching channels work with the latching means to make the clip height adjustable. These latching channels are not shown in Leonard. Therefore it is respectfully submitted that claims 7 and 8 are patentable over the above cited reference.

Claim 9 differs from the present invention in that claim 9 includes the following passage:

*"a sealing groove is formed on the inside of the wall and a correspondingly shaped sealing lip of the carrying body engages said sealing groove"*

The drawings referenced by the examiner (FIGS. 23-26) and the passage (column 11 line 11) do not disclose this feature.

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Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 9 is patentable over the above cited reference.

In summary, claims 1, 6, 7, and 8 have been amended. Claim 2 has been canceled and new claims 13 and 14 have been added. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Collard & Roe, P.C.'s deposit account 03-2468 in the amount of \$200.00 for the two additional independent claims 13 and 14. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additionally required fee as well. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this case be passed to issue.

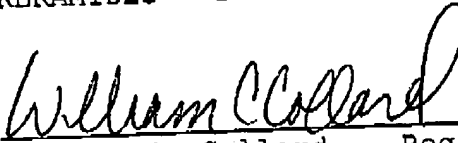
Applicant respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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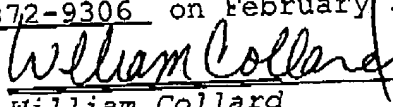
Attorneys for the Applicants

Enclosure(s):

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Fax No. 703-872-9306

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by facsimile transmission to the U.S.P.T.O. to Patent Examiner T. Nguyen at Group No.3751, to 1-703-872-9306 on February 28, 2005.

  
William Collard